

## Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*)

(3 subspecies/populations; all within plan area)

**Conservation Concern Category:**  
**High Concern**

### Population Trend (PT)

W C Canada—increasing (Delany and Scott 2002; Archibald 2001, unpub. info)

Florida—increasing (Delany and Scott 2002; Archibald 2001, unpub. info); decreasing (R. Russell, pers.comm.)

Wisconsin-Florida—unknown (Delany and Scott 2002); increasing (R. Russell, pers.comm.)

“population in 1860-1870 estimated at 1,300-1,400...was uncommon and its numbers rapidly declined by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century...the Aransas/Wood Buffalo population is predicted to reach 500 individuals in 2018 and 1,000 individuals in 2033...” (Lewis 1995)

**PT FACTOR SCORE=2**

### Population Size (PS)

W C Canada—180 total individuals (Delany and Scott 2002; Archibald 2001, unpub. info)

Florida—52 total individuals (Delany and Scott 2002; Archibald 2001, unpub. info); 60 total individuals (R. Russell, pers.comm.)

Wisconsin-Florida—8 (Delany and Scott 2002; Archibald 2001, unpub. info); 42 total individuals (R. Russell, pers.comm.)

“1994-1995 peak population was 133 birds including 8 young...reintroduced Florida population consisted of 25 (from a total of 52 released)...” (Lewis 1995)

“as of Aug 1995, numbered 178 in the wild and another 145 birds in captivity...” (Ellis et al. 1996)

**PS FACTOR SCORE=5**

### Threats to Breeding Populations (TB)

“late sexual maturity and small clutch size preclude rapid population recovery...single most important factor regulating numbers is habitat quality...wet conditions with good food resources on the nesting grounds characterize those years when chick production and survival are high...disruptive practices included draining, fencing, plowing and human activities associated with these operations...” (Lewis 1995)

“Florida population declining due to predation and power line collisions...” (R. Russell, pers.comm.)

**TB FACTOR SCORE=4**

### Threats to Non-breeding Populations (TN)

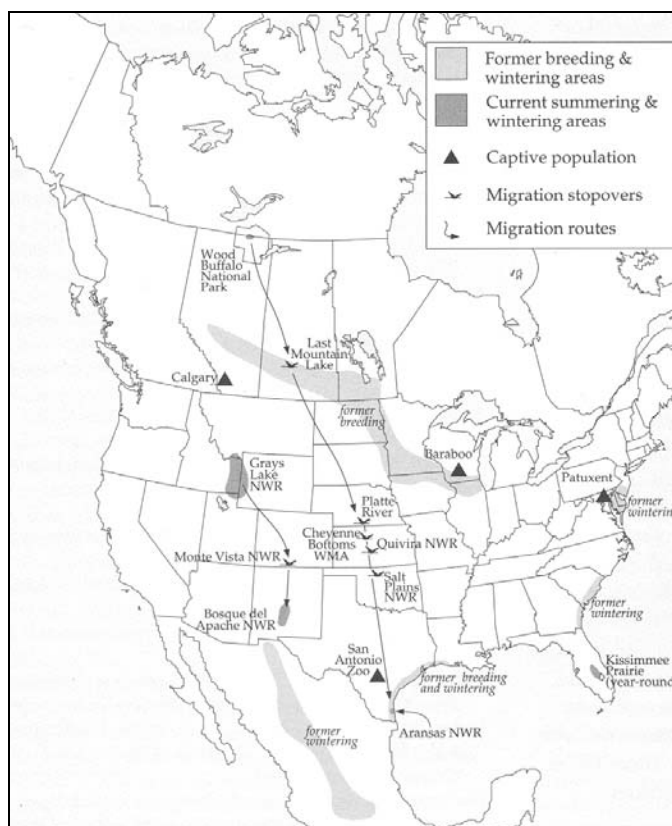
“disease and collisions are the main cause of losses among birds >1 yr old...now infrequent, but formerly a substantial drain on the population...vulnerable to losses from a hurricane or contaminant spill...power line collisions are known to have killed or seriously injured at least 19 cranes since 1956...wintering habitat lost due to operation of intracoastal waterways...vulnerable to human disturbance on wintering grounds due to water activities...” (Lewis 1995)

“face multiple threats including habitat loss and air and water pollution in their Texas wintering grounds, collision with utility lines, human disturbance, disease, predation, loss of genetic diversity, and vulnerability to natural and human-caused catastrophes...” (Ellis et al. 1996)

“illegal shooting is a threat; cases in Kansas, Florida, Texas...” (S. Fellows, pers.comm.)

**TN FACTOR SCORE=4**

**Global Range** (Meine and Archibald 1996; entire range within plan area)



### **Breeding Distribution (BD)**

W C Canada—W Central Canada: Wood Buffalo National Park (Delany and Scott 2002)

Florida—Florida (re-established) (Delany and Scott 2002)

Wisconsin-Florida—Wisconsin (re-established) (Delany and Scott 2002)

18,900 km<sup>2</sup> (plan area distribution; estimated from range maps)

**BD FACTOR SCORE=5**

### **Non-breeding Distribution (ND)**

W C Canada—Texas coast: Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (Delany and Scott 2002)

Florida— Florida (re-established) (Delany and Scott 2002)

Wisconsin-Florida—Florida (Delany and Scott 2002)

71,000 km<sup>2</sup> (plan area distribution; estimated from range maps)

**ND FACTOR SCORE=5**

### **Literature Cited:**

- Delany, S. and S. Scott. 2002. *Waterbird Population Estimates – Third Edition. Wetlands International Global Series No. 12*, Wageningen, The Netherlands. Pp: 105
- Lewis, J.C.1995. Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*). In *The Birds Of North America*, No.153 (A.Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA.
- Ellis, D. et al. 1996. *Cranes: Their Biology, Husbandry, and Conservation*. Hancock House Press. Pp: 286-288.
- Meine, C. and G. W. Archibald. 1996. Ecology, status, and conservation. In *Cranes: their biology, husbandry, and conservation*. Hancock House Publishers, Blaine, WA. Pp:287